(b) and (c) The performance of EPZs is monitored annually by the Development Commissioners in accordance with the guidelines given in the Handbook of Procedures (1997-2002). The monitoring of EPZ units during 1997-98 revealed that 60% of the units have either fulfilled their obligations under the scheme or have been kept under watch while penal action has been initiated in the remaining cases. Some of the reasons for low performance are stiff competition and recession in international market, failure of marketing arrangements, withdrawal of foreign collaborator and obsolescence of technology.

(d) The measure introduced in the Exim Policy effective from 1-4-2000 to improve the performance of EPZs include stipulation of positive net foreign exchange earning for capital intensive units, liberalisation of sub-contracting facility and further deregulation of activities of units.

An EPZ is already functioning at Santacruz, Bombay. In addition, a private EPZ at Kandiveli (East), Bombay has also been approved for establishment by M/s Kay Foam Ltd. However, there is no proposal to set up any new EPZ under the Government of India.

Agencies Working in Maharashtra

4453. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Voluntary and other organisations, private/public including industries, projects and trusts, separately working in Maharashtra with the assistance of foreign/national aid or otherwise, with the quantum of such aid received by each of them during the years 1998 to date, district-wise; and

(b) what is the progress made by such agencies, so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) There are several sources of aid, both foreign & domestic, taped by various organisations at the State level. Foreign aid could be in the form of bilateral aid or aid from private agencies. All matters relating to bilateral aid, including the manner of receipt and utilization of aid is determined by the Central Government. So far as aid from private foreign agencies is concerned, the same is regulated by the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act administered by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Similarly there are many domestic private foundations/trusts that extend aid for various purposes. Since the recipients of aid fall under a wide spectrum

of activities ranging from public health, environmental issues, research and academic fields to micro-financing and industrial development there is no central mechanism to maintain a data base on the State-wise flow and performance of aid to different agencies/projects.

Removal of Restrictions on Import and Export

4454. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that India had removed restrictions on the import and export trade policy but the U.S.A. had not removed its restrictions against India.

(b) whether it is also a fact that the new export-import policy of the Government and special zones created thereunder are under fire;

(c) if answers to parts(a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what remedial measures Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) India has been following a continuous policy of removal of restrictions on imports since 1991. Tariff line-wise import polic was first announced on 31-3-1996. As on that date import of 6161 tariff line (at 10 digit level) out of the total number of 10202 tariff lines (at 10 digit level, was free. Import restrictions on 488 tariff lines (at 10 digit level) were removed during the period 1-4-96 to 31-3-97. Further 391 tariff lines (at 8 digit level) were freed during the period 1-4-97 to 13-4-98 and 894 tariff lines (at 8 digit level) were freed on 1-4-99. Thus removal of import restrictions on 714 tariff line as carried out on 31-3-2000 was nothing but the continuation of the stated policy of the Government over the years.

Under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), 1947 all Members were obliged to remove all the Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) maintained on imports. India, being a Founder Member, was also obliged to remove the QRs but it took recourse to the exception provided in GATT for maintaining such QRs owing to balance of payments (BoP) difficulties.

However, since 1995, with substantial improvement in India's BoP position, certain Members questioned India's continued justification for maintaining QRs on BoP grounds. India could negotiate with all other trading partners, with the